

NOTE ON MITRA PICTA REEVE.

BY SLOMAN ROUS.

Mitra picta Reeve (Conch. Icon., p. 123, 1844) has been placed by Tryon in the synonymy of *M. barbadensis*. This, I think, is an error. A very cursory examination of the two shells will at once show them to be distinct. The sculpture of *barbadensis* consists of spiral raised lines, with fine microscopic, spiral and longitudinal lines decussating the spaces between them. In *picta* the spiral lines are impressed, closely, deeply foveolated, microscopically striated longitudinally and pitted where they cross the revolving lines. The fine spiral lines of *barbadensis* are absent in *picta*.

In color *M. picta* is a much darker brown, with the white patches much more conspicuous, being larger and more numerous often in wide longitudinal lines from end to end of the shell, but broken at the suture, or often massed on the suture so that the white predominates. I think usually one-fourth of the surface is white.

The folds on the columella of *M. barbadensis* are five in number, sometimes a sixth being just perceptible, in *picta* there are only four, the fourth being very small. I do not recollect ever to have noticed a fifth fold, but if it occurs it will be as rare as six in *barbadensis*.

Tryon also says "Sowerby erroneously refers the latter (*picta*) to the Cape of Good Hope." This is not an error of Mr. Sowerby. I was resident in the Cape over forty years, during which I had the pleasure of supplying him with many examples, and I have many still in my possession, most, or I think all, of them collected in Algoa Bay.

There can be no doubt that *M. picta* Reeve, is a valid species, and that its habitat is the Cape of Good Hope. That other writers have followed Tryon in this synonymy is sufficient reason for bringing this error to the notice of conchologists.

NOTE ON VITREA APPROXIMA AND V. VANATTAI.

BY H. A. PILSBRY AND BYRANT WALKER.

Owing to the fact that the proof of the article in which these species were described (Proc. A. N. S. P. 1902, pp. 431-3) was not read by both us, some errors unintentionally crept in, which were

not discovered until too late to be corrected in the original publication.

The localities of the two species were reversed and the proper credit was not given for the discovery of *V. approxima*. The types of that species were not collected by Ferriss and Walker and did not come from Wilson's Cove. They were collected by Henry Hemphill many years before and were distributed by him as "*V. wheatleyi* Bld." As Hemphill's stay on Mt. Mitchell was very limited (See Proc. P. A. N. S. 1900, page 149) they were no doubt collected either along the trail to the summit or on Mt. Mitchell itself. Collectors who received specimens from Hemphill as *V. wheatleyi* would do well to reëxamine them carefully.

V. vanattai was collected by Walker in Wilson's Cove.

SUBSPECIES, MUTATIONS AND FORMS.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Messrs. Pilsbry and Ferriss in discussing the variations of *Bulimulus alternatus* (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1906, p. 140) say: "we can find no ground for dividing them [the different forms of subsp. *mariaë*] into several races, as Prof. Cockerell proposes."

It seems opportune to protest against this interpretation of my paper of 1891; the more so, since Prof. Pilsbry has before tried to insist upon the erroneous nature of my proposed classification. There is not, and never has been, the least divergence of opinion as to the actual facts. In 1891, of course, we did not know as much about the subject as we do to-day, thanks to the excellent researches of Messrs. Pilsbry and Ferriss; but now, as before, the objections to my nomenclature have no valid basis, except in a mere difference of opinion as to what should receive a name.

I grew up in England, accustomed to the methods of the Jeffreyian school, which paid little attention to slightly differentiated races, but bestowed names on all sporadic or individual variations which were striking enough to be easily recognized. Professor Pilsbry pays little attention to sporadic variations, but is very much interested in geographical races or subspecies. It was undoubtedly a